CLAIMS

I hereby claim:

1. An assistance device for assisting the drafting of documents on a word processor including part names and related reference numbers, said word processor having an input device, said assistance device comprising a recognition means and an autocomplete means, said recognition means scans each symbol inputted via the input device and places all words followed by a first space followed by a number into an autocomplete list, said autocomplete means scans each symbol as it is being inputted via the input device and compares these symbols to those in the part names already added to the autocomplete list by the recognition means, as soon as a predetermined number of consecutive symbols of a part name in the autocomplete list are inputted via the input device the autocomplete means automatically finishes typing the part name and its reference number or offers this option to a user.

2. The assistance device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the recognition means places all words followed by a first space followed by a number followed by a second space in the autocomplete list.

3. The assistance device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the recognition means places all words followed by a first space followed by a number followed by a period or a comma in the autocomplete list.

4. The assistance device as claimed in claim 1 wherein prior to automatically finishing the part name and reference number already on the autocomplete list the recognition means in certain circumstances extends the part name by adding one or more identifiers before it, the determination as to whether to add identifiers being based on the history of use said identifiers immediately before part names earlier in the document.

5. The assistance device as claimed in claim 1 wherein prior to automatically finishing a part name and reference number already on the autocomplete list the recognition means extends the part name by adding one or identifier words to it, all identifier words modifying the last occurrence of the part name that are the same as the identifier words

preceding the most recent occurrence are added to the part name in the autocomplete list.

6. A method for facilitating the drafting of a document containing part names and reference numbers in a word processor having an input device, said method comprising: (a)placing all part names along with their associated part numbers into an autocomplete list on an on-going basis as they are being inputted into the document via the input device; (c)comparing all symbols inputted via the input device to those in the part names already in the autocomplete list; (d) once a predetermined threshold number of consecutive inputted symbols match those of a part name in the autocomplete list replacing the most recently inputted consecutive symbols with the matching part name and its associated part number from the autocomplete list or offering this as an option to a user.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein in step (a) all words followed by a space followed by a number or a number in parenthesis are placed into the autocomplete list, upon such placement the word being considered the part name and the number its associated part number.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein in step (a) all words followed by a space followed by a number followed by a space are placed into the autocomplete list, upon such placement the word being considered the part name and the number its associated part number.

9. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein in step (a) all words followed by a space followed by a number followed by a comma or period are placed into the autocomplete list, upon such placement the word being considered the part name and the number its associated part number.

10. The method as claimed in claim 6 further comprising extending the part name in the autocomplete list by adding identifier words to it prior to the replacement in step (d), all identifier words modifying the last occurrence of the part name in the document that are the same as the identifier words preceding the most recent occurrence are added to the part name in the autocomplete list.

11. The method as claimed in claim 6 further comprising extending the part name in the autocomplete list by adding identifier words to it prior to the replacement in step (d), if

the first word immediately before the last occurrence of the part name in the document is an identifier and is the same as the word immediately before the most recent occurrence of the part name then this word is added to the part name in the autocomplete list and becomes the first word in the part name.

12. The method as claimed in claim 6 further comprising extending the part name in the autocomplete list by adding identifier words to it prior to the replacement in step (d), if the first through x words immediately before the last occurrence of the part name in the document are identifiers and are the same as the first through x words immediately before the most recent occurrence of the part name then these x words are added to the part name in the autocomplete list and becomes the first through x words in the part name.

13. An assistance device for assisting the drafting of documents on a word processor having an input device and a display, said assistance device comprising a recognition means and an autocomplete means, said recognition means scanning each symbol as it is being inputted via the input device and placing all words longer than a predetermined number into an autocomplete list, said autocomplete means scanning each symbol as it is being inputted via the input device and automatically completing via the display or offering the option to automatically complete all partial words inputted that match words in the autocomplete list at least by a predetermined number of letters.

14. A computer program product comprising:

a computer useable medium and computer readable code embodied on said computer useable medium for assisting the drafting of documents on a word processor including part names and related reference numbers, said word processor having an input device,

the computer readable code comprising:

computer readable code devices configured to cause the computer to place all words inputted via the input device that are followed by a first space followed by a number into an autocomplete list, words entered into the autocomplete list are part names and the numbers following them are their associated reference numbers;

computer readable code devices configured to cause the computer to compare all

symbols inputted by via the input device to the part names already added to the autocomplete list;

computer readable code devices configured to cause the computer to automatically finish or present a user with an option to automatically finish typing the part name and its reference number as soon as a predetermined number of consecutive symbols of a part name in the autocomplete list are inputted via the input device.